

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the final Office Action mailed May 24, 2004, submitted concurrently with a Petition for Extension of Time to within the second extended month.

Applicant notes that this non-final Office Action represents the reopening of prosecution by the USPTO following the filing of an Appeal Brief, and accordingly, all previous rejections have been withdrawn.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 1-9, 12, and 15-27 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to their underlying subject matter. Claims 28-34 were added. Support for new claims 28-29 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, at page 12, line 12 to page 13, line 11. Support for new claim 30 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, at page 13, line 24 to page 14, line 12. Support for new claims 31-32 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, at page 14, line 18 to page 15, line 24. Support for new claim 33 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, at page 17, lines 13-23. Support for new claim 34 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, at page 11, line 23 to page 12, line 8. No new matter was added. Claims 28-34 are pending in this application, with claims 28, 30, 31 and 33 and 34 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2, 7-9, 12, 15-24 and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,620,560 to Akimoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,577,130 to Wu. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

However, in order to expedite prosecution, claims 1-2, 7-9, 12, 15-24 and 26-27 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, mooted this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,620,560 to Akimoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,577,130 to Wu and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,126,744 to Hawkins. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

However, in order to expedite prosecution, claim 25 was canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, mooted this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

New Claims

New claims 28-34 have a controller that controls various component members of the claimed processing system according to the processing conditions or the status of the component members detected based on an image picked up by the image pickup means. The cited references do not disclose, teach or suggest a substrate processing system having the claimed controller.

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are believed to be clearly patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the claims in light of the above remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. KPO-138-Processing from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: October 25, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Robert S. Green

Registration No.: 41,800

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC

1233 20th Street, N.W.

Suite 501

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 955-3750

Attorney for Applicant